

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/847,598

Examiner

Patrick Miller

Applicant(s)

KOSELKA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/08/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5,6,9,12,17,18,23,24,28-31,33-39,41,42,44-51, and 54-61.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05/02/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>12/18/2003</u> |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 12/08/03, with respect to claim 17 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 17 has been withdrawn.
 - Per the telephone interview with Raimond J. Salnieks (37,924) on October 29, 2003, the Examiner agrees with the Applicant that Bierma et al reference does not disclose a roll of moistened webbing encased in a watertight compartment, but rather a dry cloth that is impregnated with a cleaning agent, where water is used to activate the cleaning agent.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 5, 6, 9, 12, 17, 18, 23, 24, 28-31, 33-39, 41, 42, 44-51, and 54-61 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - With respect to claims 5 and 6, the primary reason for allowance is because the Prior Art discloses a floor mopping apparatus where it would be obvious for the apparatus to be an autonomous cleaning robot and where a soiled portion of a web is disposed to a take-up a roller; however, the Prior Art does not disclose offloading the web after it has been soiled.
 - With respect to claim 9, Bartsch et al. (6,459,955) disclose a floor mopping assembly where the entire contents are encased by a watertight compartment; however, Bartsch et al. does not disclose a housing that houses the contents of a mopping apparatus including a watertight case that houses a roll of web.

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- With respect to claims 12 and 18, the primary reason for allowance is because the Prior Art discloses a floor mopping assembly where the roll of web is disposable, but not where the roll of web is encased in a disposable assembly.
- With respect to claim 17, the primary reason for allowance is because the Prior Art does not disclose a floor mopping assembly with a computerized chassis and a roll of moistened webbing encased in a watertight compartment.
- With respect to claims 23 and 58, the primary reason for allowance is because the Prior Art does not disclose the method of mopping the floor without human intervention that transfers a portion of a webbing once it has been determined that the webbing is soiled.
- With respect to claims 24 and 59, the primary reason for allowance is because the Prior Art does not disclose the method of mopping a floor without human intervention, that transfers a portion of a webbing once it has been determined that the mopping device has cleaned a predetermined area of the surface.
- With respect to claims 28 and 39, the primary reason for allowance is because the Prior Art does not disclose an autonomous mobile robot being a master controller that controls cleaning units.
- With respect to claim 48, the primary reason for allowance is because the Prior Art does not disclose the control means capable of autonomously navigating.
- With respect to claim 49, Nakanishi et al. disclose a cleaning robot where the master controller to the robot receives signals from the robot. However, Nakanishi et al and the relevant Prior Art does not disclose autonomous master controller that has one or more

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navigation sensors that sense the movement of the floor mopping device by tracking the floor mopping device's location.

- With respect to claim 57, the primary reason for allowance is because the Prior Art discloses a cleaning apparatus with rollers that rest on the surface.
4. Therefore, based on the arguments and amendments presented by the Applicant, the Examiner acknowledges the Prior Art fails to make obvious the Applicant's claimed invention.
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick Miller whose telephone number is 703-308-4931. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:30. **PLEASE NOTE:** After February 3, 2003, the Examiner's telephone number will change to 571-272-2070.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Nappi can be reached on 703-308-3370. **PLEASE NOTE:** After February 3, 2003, the supervisor's telephone number will change to 571-272-2071. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3431.

Patrick Miller
Examiner


ROBERT NAPPI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER